

The Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a nationwide surveying effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor students' health risks and behaviors in six categories. The YRBS is conducted every two years among a representative group of Indiana students in grades 9–12. Below is an overview of this topic's key findings.

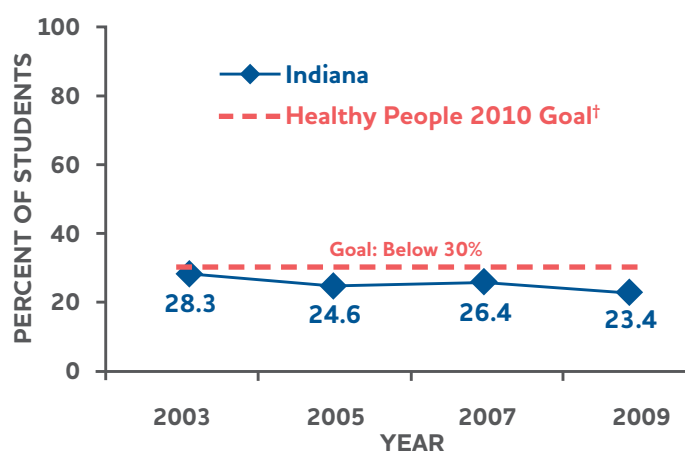
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Unintentional injury and violence are the leading causes of death for people aged 1–44 years. Regardless of gender, race, or economic status, homicide is the second and suicide is the third leading cause of death for Americans aged 15–24 years. Additionally, deaths due to unintentional injury and violence are only part of the picture, as thousands of American high school students are injured each year and survive.

KEY POINTS

Compared to 2003–2007, Indiana high school students in 2009

- Were less likely to have ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, bettering the national goal of 30% (Figure)
- Improved their use of seat belts when in a car driven by someone else
- Continued to not wear their bicycle helmets often enough when riding bicycles
- Were as likely to have been threatened with a weapon at school, although the percentage decreased by 32% compared to 2007
- Continued to report high rates of prolonged feelings of sadness or hopelessness
- Were more likely to have attempted suicide resulting in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse

FIGURE. Percent of high school students who rode in car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days—Indiana, 2003–2009



Changes in Injury and Violence-related Behaviors

Percentage of Indiana high school students who	2003	2005	Indiana 2007	2009	Compared to 2003–07, students in 2009 were
Rode in car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (Figure)	28.3	24.6	26.4	23.4	Less Likely
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	10.6	8.2	9.2	7.1	Less Likely
Rode a bicycle during the past 12 months and never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet	93.8	92.3	93.3	91.3	Just as Likely
Had been threatened or injured with a weapon (gun, knife, or club) on school property during the past 12 months	6.7	8.8	9.6	6.5	Just as Likely
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks during the past 12 months	25.5	27.3	27.5	28.1	Just as Likely
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	1.6	3.5	2.9	3.6	More Likely

TAKE ACTION

— What you can do to help protect high school students from injury and violence

- **EXTEND** teens' supervised driving period, and **SET** the rules of the road and **ENFORCE** them with parent-teen contracts
- **REMIN**d teens that bicycle helmets are the single most effective safety device available to avoid head injuries
- **KNOW** and **RECOGNIZE** the signs and symptoms of suicide, including changes in a teen's mood, diet, or sleeping pattern (Additional information at www.sprc.org)